

REMARKS

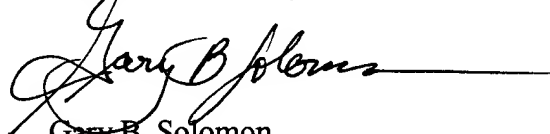
Applicants file this Preliminary Amendment in response to the Office Action dated January 14, 2004. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is also being filed concurrently herewith.

Claims 49-72 remain pending. Claims 25-48 are being canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 49-72 being newly submitted are similar to the claims of Preliminary Amendment filed June 21, 2001. Prior to consideration of the Application on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests an Examiner's interview and invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's newly appointed representative.

Respectfully submitted,

PATTON BOGGS, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary B. Solomon", followed by a horizontal line.

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Dated: May 14, 2004

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